STRAY DOG

ストレイドッグ

Arakawa's starting point! The bewildering first piece of work!!

...AND A SMALL BIT OF CASH...
Ching
A BAG OF VOLISTLE ORE...
CLOTH FROM THE BATHOLY REGION...
A FEW GEM-STONES, HERBS AND SPICES...
CHEAP-SKATES!

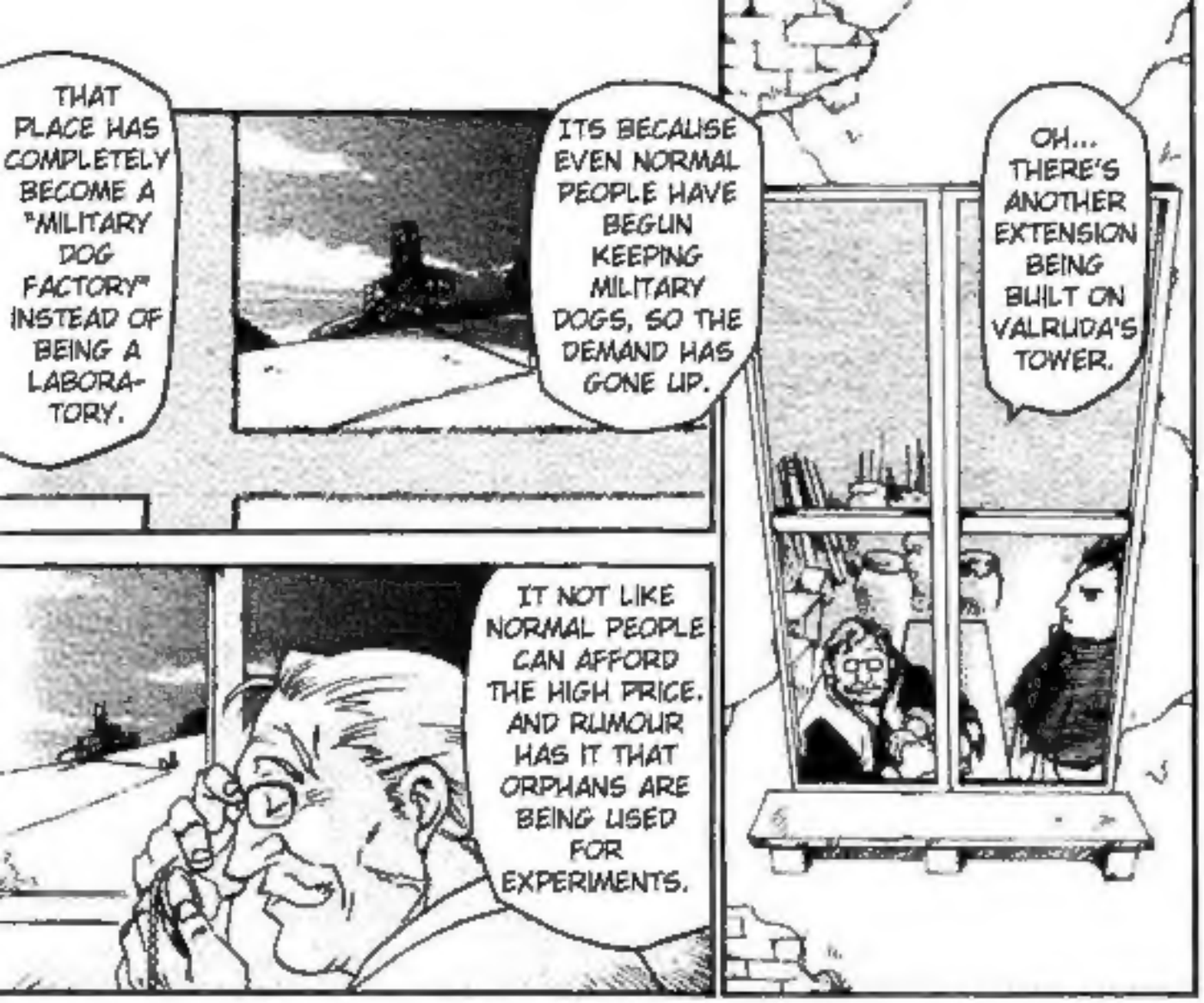
HM?
...AND HERE I THOUGHT THAT THE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION WAS ONLY IN THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES...
!
WHAT'S THIS...?
A CHILD ...
NO, THE GOLDEN EYES...
A "MILITARY DOG" ...!?

BYE.
Lets go
I'M NOT GOING TO BOTHER WITH SUCH TROUBLESOME STOCK.
!
.....
SFX: *SILENCE*
I'LL OPEN THE CAGE FOR YOU. HURRY UP AND ESCAPE TO WHEREVER YOU WANT.
LOOK,
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
AT THAT TIME, THERE IS A TYPE OF ORGANISM CALLED MILITARY DOG. IT IS THE PRODUCT OF THE MOST ADVANCED MAGIC TECHNIQUE.
I'VE JUST SAID, DON'T FOLLOW ME!!
Stares
...HEY! DON'T FOLLOW ME!!

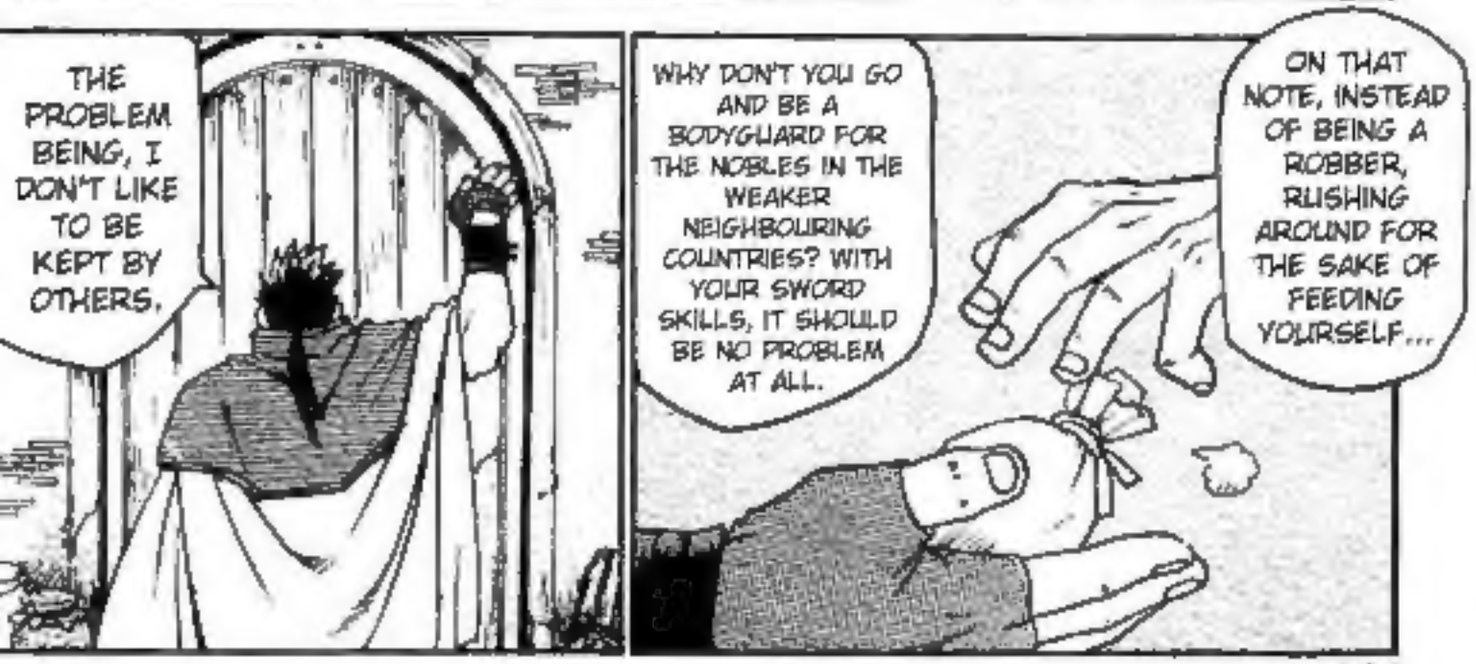
DON'T FOLLOW MEEEEEEEEE!!!
IT IS THE PRODUCT OF COMBINING MAGIC AND CHEMISTRY AT THE HANDS OF THE TOP-NOTCH MAGE VALRUDA; CREATING AN ORGANISM WITH THE "INTELLIGENCE" OF HUMANS, AND THE "STRENGTH" OF DOGS.
AS "MILITARY" IMPLIES, THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE FOR CREATING SUCH AN ORGANISM IS FOR BATTLE.
BUT IN RECENT YEARS, NORMAL PEOPLE STARTED KEEPING THEM AS WELL, USING THEM FOR HARD LABOUR OR AS BODYGUARDS, AND SO ON...
...THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!!
HUFF
PANT
HUFF
PUFF
PUFF
HUFF
PUFF
HUFF
PUFF
?
My name be Fultac...
With this blood, I hereby enter a pact with thee...
Till death does our pact end, and upon its fall
Unwavering, even in the face of death
Thou shalt pledge loyalty to me...
THEY'RE VERY USEFUL TOOLS, BECAUSE REGARDLESS OF HOW HARSHLY THEY'RE TREATED, THEY DON'T COMPLAIN, AND THEY DON'T NEED TO BE PAID.
YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK HARD TO EARN YOUR KEEP.
LISTEN UP, THERE'S NO CHOICE, SO I'LL KEEP YOU.
† INSTRUCTION MANUAL
WORTHY OF A SPECIAL MENTION IS THEIR LOYALTY... ONCE THEY ENTER A PACT, THEY WILL OBEY THEIR MASTER'S COMMANDS ABSOLUTELY, ONLY PARTING WITH THEIR MASTER UPON DEATH.
AWAITING YOUR COMMANDS, MASTER.
PACT SEALED.
and thou name shalt hence be...
...
"Kitka"

THAT MEANS THAT MILITARY DOGS ARE ORGANISMS THAT HAVE THE INTELLIGENCE OF NORMAL PEOPLE AND LOYALTY THAT SURPASSES EVEN DOGS, AND GREATER BATTLE ABILITIES THAN HUMANS.
BUT
REALLY NOW!!
YOU RUNT !!
WHERE HAS THE PREY GONE?
WELL?
I'M SO SORRY ...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN THAT MANY YEARS, AND YOU'RE STILL AS CLUMSY AS EVER. YOU REALLY ARE A USELESS DOG!
IT ESCAPED♡
IT...
NO DINNER FOR YOU!!

ドサ.
HEY, OLD GEEZER, CASH THIS IN FOR ME, WILL YA?
HOW'S LITTLE KILKA?
OH OH! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, WANTED CRIMINAL? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A LONG TIME, AND HERE I WAS THINKING THAT YOU'VE FINALLY BEEN CAUGHT.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU JABBERING ON ABOUT, OLD GEEZER? AM I GONNA BE CAUGHT THAT EASILY?
I'M THE ONLY SHOP THAT'S GONNA TAKE YOUR LOOT ANYWAY, SO HOLD YOUR HORSES.
HEY, DON'T RUSH.
...HEY! I DIDN'T DROP IN TO CHIT CHAT!
...IT'S BEEN 3 YEARS SINCE I PICKED HER UP, BUT SHE'S STILL THE SAME...
A REALLY POWERFUL BOUNTY HUNTER SHOWED UP AROUND THE REGION A FEW DAYS AGO... HM?
YOU THINK ITS REALLY THAT EASY BEING FAMOUS?!
WAHAHAHA
YOU'VE MADE A BIT OF A NAME FOR YOURSELF HERE.
ON THAT NOTE, THE BOUNTY ON YOUR HEAD HAS RISEN TO TWO MILLION.

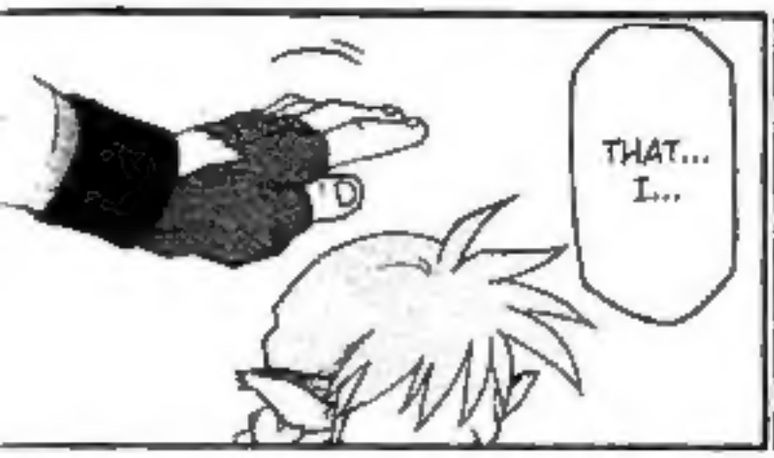

THAT PLACE HAS COMPLETELY BECOME A "MILITARY DOG FACTORY" INSTEAD OF BEING A LABORA-TORY.
ITS BECAUSE EVEN NORMAL PEOPLE HAVE BEGUN KEEPING MILITARY DOGS, SO THE DEMAND HAS GONE UP.
OH... THERE'S ANOTHER EXTENSION BEING BUILT ON VALRUDA'S TOWER.
IT NOT LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE CAN AFFORD THE HIGH PRICE. AND RUMOUR HAS IT THAT ORPHANS ARE BEING USED FOR EXPERIMENTS.

OK, THAT'S SOME HIGH QUALITY STUFF THAT YOU'VE BROUGHT IN, SO I'LL GIVE YOU TOO THOUSAND FOR THEM.
ANYWAY, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO KEEP ONE...


THE PROBLEM BEING, I DON'T LIKE TO BE KEPT BY OTHERS.
WHY DON'T YOU GO AND BE A BODYGUARD FOR THE NOBLES IN THE WEAKER NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES? WITH YOUR SWORD SKILLS, IT SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
ON THAT NOTE, INSTEAD OF BEING A ROBBER, RUSHING AROUND FOR THE SAKE OF FEEDING YOURSELF...

OK, WE'RE GOING.
MASTER...
OVER THERE...
HM? OH...
HEY, GET UP!
O! IS IT DEAD ALREADY?
AN "ABANDONED DOG".
MOST LIKELY TO BE A DOG THAT GOT SHOOED OUT OF THE WAR WITH THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY.
IS IT HEAVILY WOUNDED? DID IT GET ABANDONED BY IT'S MASTER...?
BECAUSE THEY LIVE BY THE COMMANDS OF THEIR MASTER, ONCE THEIR MASTER DIES OR ABANDONS THEM, THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO LIVE BY THEMSELVES... THIS IS THE ULTIMATE END FOR A USELESS DOG, A PATHETIC ENDING.
?
Stares
I, TOO... WOULD GET ABANDONED ONE DAY?
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...
I'M...
ALWAYS SAID TO BE "USELESS".

THAT'S WHY I GOT SOLD TO BE USED FOR "ORNAMENTAL PURPOSES" ...
I'M NOT MUCH USE ON THE BATTLEFIELD, THEREFORE LOSING THE RIGHT AS A MILITARY DOG.
BECAUSE THE COMBINATION OF THE HUMAN PARTS AND DOG PARTS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH,


THAT... I...

Scratch scratch
...
... OH ...

GRINS
Very suprised!!

Surprised!
TURNS AROUND

Whoooooose gunna...
AH?

HERE, HERE! PAT, PAT!
WERE YOU THINKING "I WANT TO PAT IT'S HEAD"?

WERE YOU JUST THINKING "POOR THING... I MUST TREAT IT BETTER"?
HEY, HEY, MASTER... YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME?
HEY, HEY...
Runs around
Runs around

SHUT UP!!
YOU'RE REALLY CUTE, LITTLE KILKA!!
OH OH OH! I'M SORRY!!
SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, THEN I'LL GIVE YOU A REALLY GOOD PAT!!
A LARGE, ONE-EYED MAN...
WHO TOLD YOU TO MUCK ABOUT?!
PLEASE STOP YELLING AT MY MASTER
A SMALL DOG..
WITH A TWO MILLION BOUNTY, I WAS THINKING THAT HE WOULD BE A MONTER-LIKE GUY..
..BUT HE JUST LOOKS LIKE A FOOL.
FU FU FU...
I'VE FOUND YOU, "SWORD-MASTER" FULTAC!!
HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE CAPTURE FOR FIVE YEARS.
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SAY ONE THING, MASTER.
WE SHOULDN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN...

SINCE WHEN DID YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS TO YOUR MASTER, BRAKSHIA?
UWAH!
A DOG ONLY NEEDS ACT LIKE A DOG, ABSOLUTELY OBEYING THEIR MASTER'S ORDER IN SILENCE!!
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE I HEARD THAT YOU'RE THE BEST GRADE OF MILITARY DOG THAT I ACTUALLY BOUGHT AND MADE A PACT WITH YOU.
YES, SIRE...
...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, I HAVE NEVER BEEN PRAISED BY MASTER. NOT EVEN ONCE!
OH?

THIS IS "MILITARY DOG"!!
OF COURSE!! I'VE ALWAYS DONE MY BEST BY MASTER. IF MASTER IS PLEASED, THEN IT IS MY GREATEST HAPPINESS!!
WHAT? YOU WANNA BE PRAISED?
WHAAAT!
YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU FREE-LOADER!
UH.. BUT THE PACT HAS ALREADY BEEN SEALED, AND..
IF SO, THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO AND FIND A MASTER THAT WOULD TREAT YOU BETTER?
FOR THE MASTER?
AN ORGANISM CREATED TO BE LIKE SO...
AH?
NO, NOTHING ...
BUUP!!
BECAUSE MASTER IS NICE!
...
MASTER IS REALLY NICE!
THE MASTER THAT YOU ALWAYS FOLLOW AROUND IS "NICE"...
YOU SAY...

MAST...
KILKA
!!
GET DOWN !!!!
YOU DODGED IT?
OH!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON OVER THERE!?
... FU WAH !!

.WHO ARE YOU?
WHICH IS GOOD, I SUPPOSE. IF IT WEREN'T THIS WAY, IT WOULD BE NO FUN.
HELLO, I'M BARTLEY, THE GENIUS MAGE AS WELL AS THE TOP BOUNTY HUNTER. THIS DOG IS...
I HEARD THAT THERE WAS A TWO MILLION BOUNTY, SO I DROPPED BY TO SAY HELLO AND TAKE YOUR HEAD.
At least let people finish what they were saying!
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME, MR. SELF-PROCLAIMED GENIUS MAGE?
WHAT A REALLY BIG ANNOYANCE, YOU BOUNTY HUNTERS...
REALLY NOW

AFTER I'M DONE WITH THIS MAN, I'LL DEAL WITH IT MYSELF!
BUT DON'T KILL IT.
YES, SIR.
BRAKSHIA, YOU GO AND PLAY WITH THE PUPPY OVER THERE FOR A BIT.
Spell!!
KILKA..!

THE EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE SAYS "I THOUGHT HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A MAGE, BUT HE'S GOOD AT FIGHTING".
THERE ISN'T A RULE STATING THAT MAGES CAN'T BE GOOD AT FIGHTING, IS THERE?
THAT BASTARD.. I THOUGHT HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A MAGE...
...VERY WELL!!
Grrr
MAS-
TER!!

ARE FOR ME TO BE YOUR OPPONENT, FOR NOW.

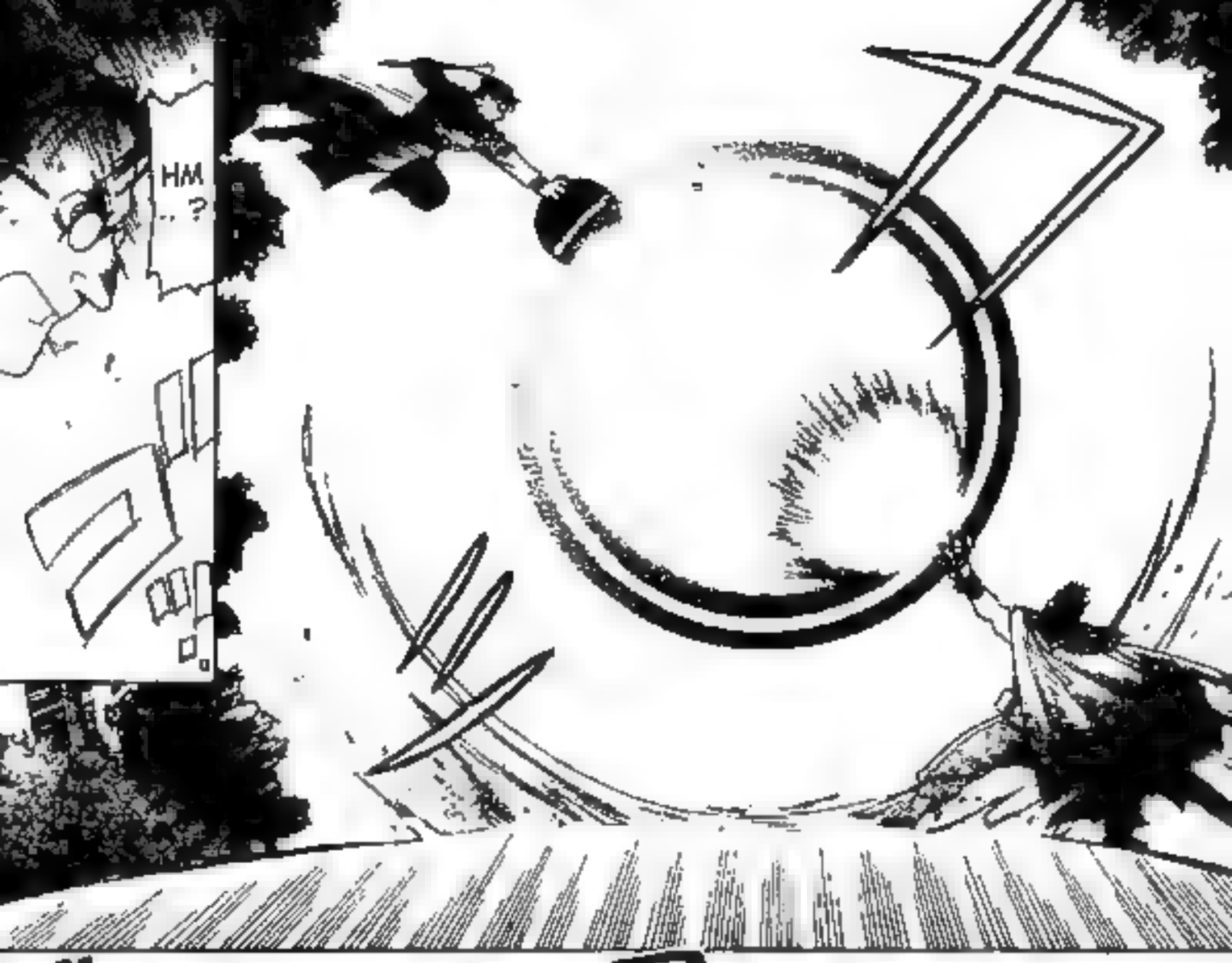
.....!!

MY MASTER'S ORDERS...

!!

HA HA!! I'M GOING TO START MY GLAM-OUROUS ATTACKS NOW!!

WAH
WAH
WAH
WAH
HA
!!
THE SMOKE'S EVERY-WHERE, CAN'T SEE A DAMN THING!
SHIT!
DON'T OVERDO THE GLAMOUR, WILL YA?
GOTCHA!
ARA
STOP HIDING IN THE SHADOWS, AND GET YOUR ASS OUT HERE!!
WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU, KID!
!!
...SUCH A LAME LINE...


HM ..?

AH!
UWAA AAHH HHHH...

I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT YOU CAN USE SUCH A SPEL...

IM-POS-SI-BLE !!

THERE ISN'T A RULE STATING THAT WARRIORS CAN'T USE SPELLS, IS THERE?
H...
HOW ... HOW CAN...
OF COURSE.
BECAUSE I'VE KILLED EVERYBODY WHO HAS SEEN IT.
ドン
IT WAS HARD TO LEARN, SO ITS THE ONLY ONE THAT I KNOW!
ドドド

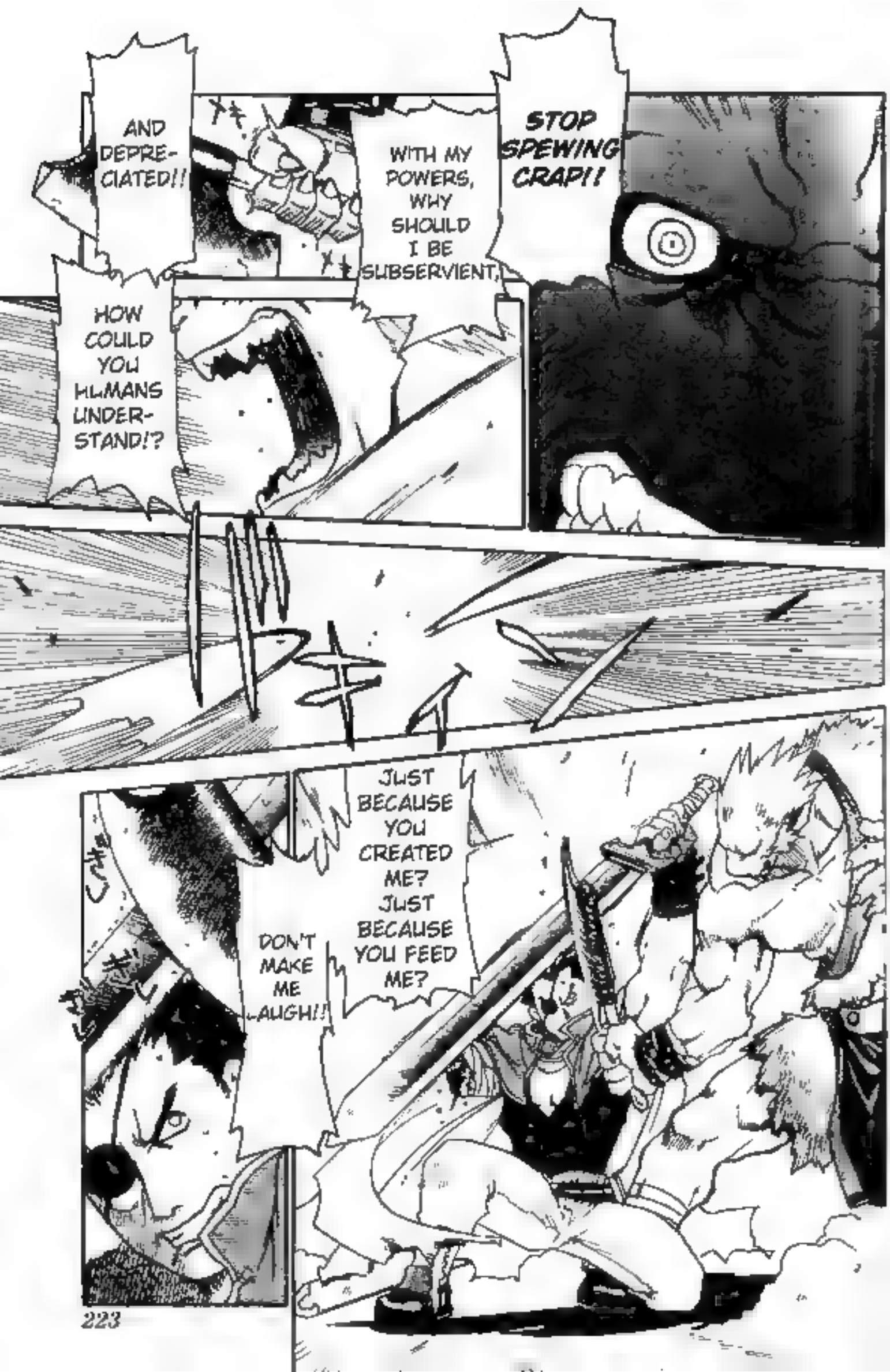
NGH ...
...MY MASTER IS DEAD.
...!?
Let's go!
...YES, THE COMMANDS ARE NOW REDUNDANT.
NOW THAT THE "PACT" HAS ENDED, HIS COMMANDS ARE REDUNDANT, SO THERE IS NO POINT IN FIGHTING!
THAT'S A PITY!

!!
W. .. WHY...?
THE ORDER "GO AND PLAY WITH THE PUPPY" IS NOW REDUNDANT.
THAT'S ALL!!
I'M NOW ACTING ON MY OWN WILL.
WHERE DID THAT THOUGHTLESS LITTLE RUNT GO...
. . . DARN IT!

FIRST IS THE DOMINANT ARM...
AHHHH!!!
ARGH...
WITH YOUR MASTER GONE, YOU SHOULD HAVE NO REASON TO FIGHT!!
IF THE MASTER IS DEAD, THEN THE PACT IS BROKEN!
WHY ...?!

HE ALLOWED ME TO AWAKEN!
BUT I'VE GOT TO THANK HIM FOR ONE THING.
MAS... MASTER ...?
ALTHOUGH ON HUMAN TERMS, HE WAS THE LOWEST OF THE LOW,
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH KILKA...?
YOU ...
I'VE DONE AWAY WITH HER.

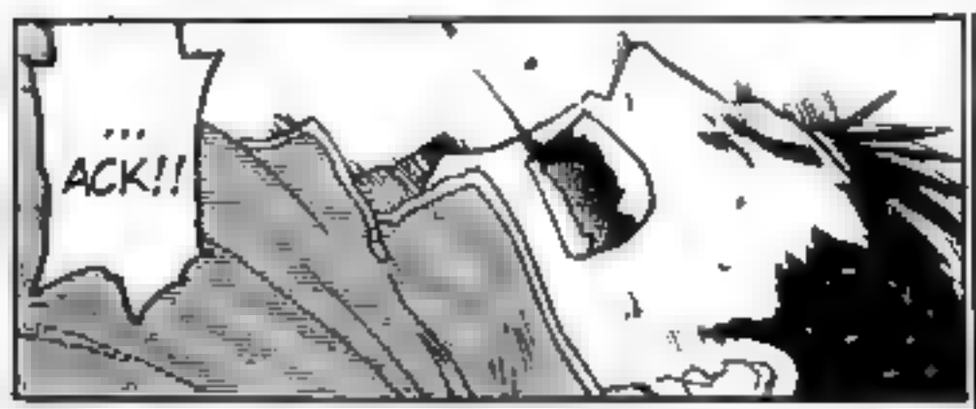
NOTHING IS WORSE THAN TORTURING WEAKER ENEMIES.
VERY SIMPLE!! I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO AGAINST HIS ORDERS!!
NOW THAT THE BINDS BY THE NAME OF MASTER IS GONE, WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PROVE MY EXISTANCE?
BUT,
IT IS CRITICAL IN PROVING MY EXISTANCE!
IT REALLY IS TOO EASY TO DEAL AWAY WITH YOU BOTH.
IN THE END, YOU'RE STILL JUST "TRASH",
AREN'T YOU?
HA... YOU'RE FULL OF THE SELF-WHATEVER ...
NOTHING WILL CHANGE BY JUST NOT CONFORMING TO THE QUALITIES OF MILITARY DOG.
W!!

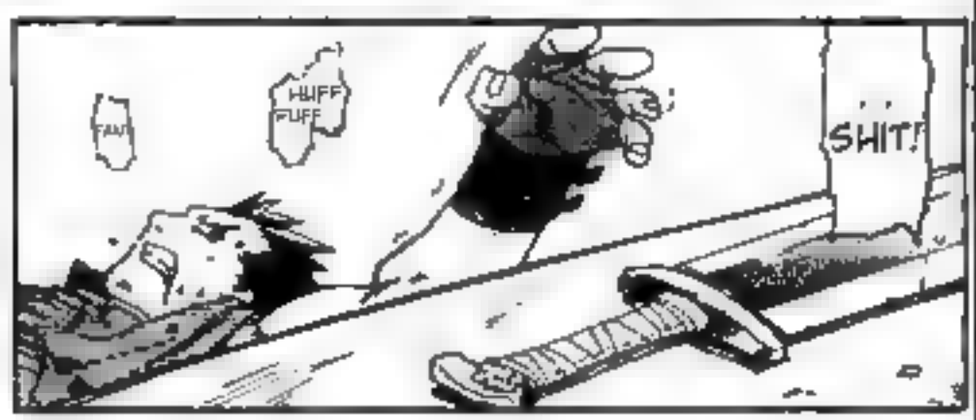

AND DEPRE-CIATED!!
WITH MY POWERS, WHY SHOULD I BE SUBSERVIENT,
STOP SPEWING CRAP!!
HOW COULD YOU HUMANS UNDER-STAND!?
JUST BECAUSE YOU CREATED ME? JUST BECAUSE YOU FEED ME?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!!

AN ENTITY THAT CAN THROW AWAY THEIR LIFE AT YOUR COMMAND...
ALL BECAUSE OF THE INHERENT SHACKLES BY THE NAME OF LOYALTY!
Twitch
DIE FOR THE SAKE OF OUR MASTERS.
WE CAN ONLY LIVE FOR THE SAKE OF OUR MASTERS,
THIS IS HOW WE CREATIONS FEEL!!
THEN ISN'T OUR EXISTANCE THE SAME AS "DEATH"!!?
Ahh...
CAN YOU UNDER-STAND OUR PAIN!!?

SHIT...! MY ARM HURTS! I CAN'T CONCENTRATE . .!!
GRR!
AGH

ハァはぁ……


…
ACK!!


FAH
HUFF
PUFF
SHIT!

GYAAAAA!!!

AS A HUMAN, YOU'RE REALLY STRONG. BUT. .
HUFF
PUFF
HUFF
PUFF

THIS IS THE END.

WHA
...!!

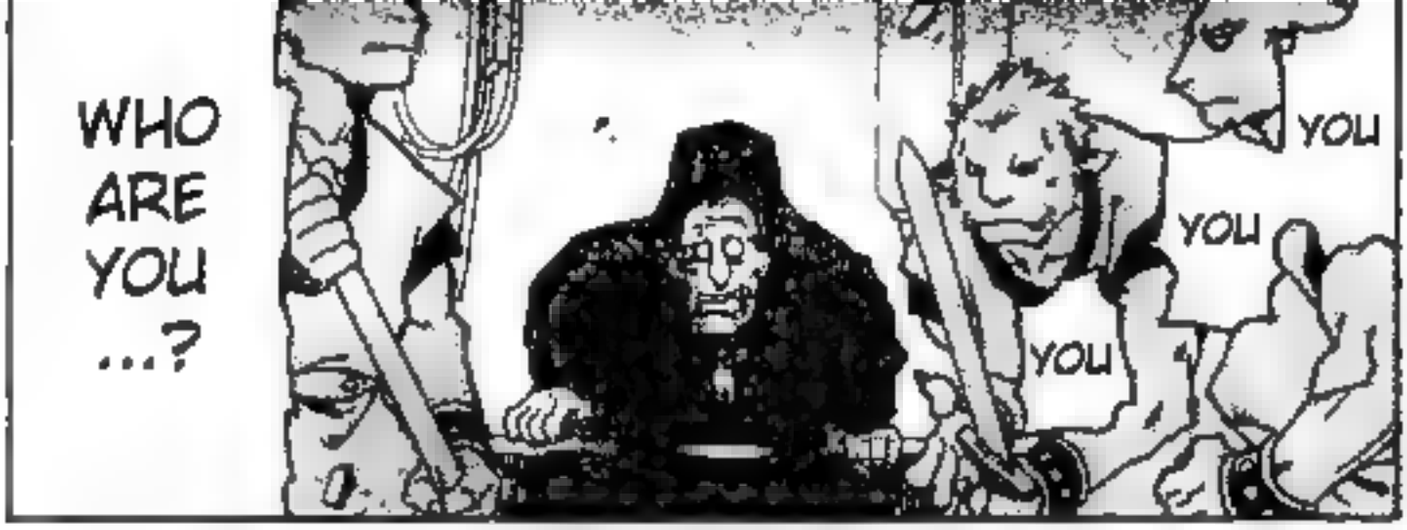
GRRR...
AARGH!
ARGHHHHH
...y
you
...
HYA!
AH
...

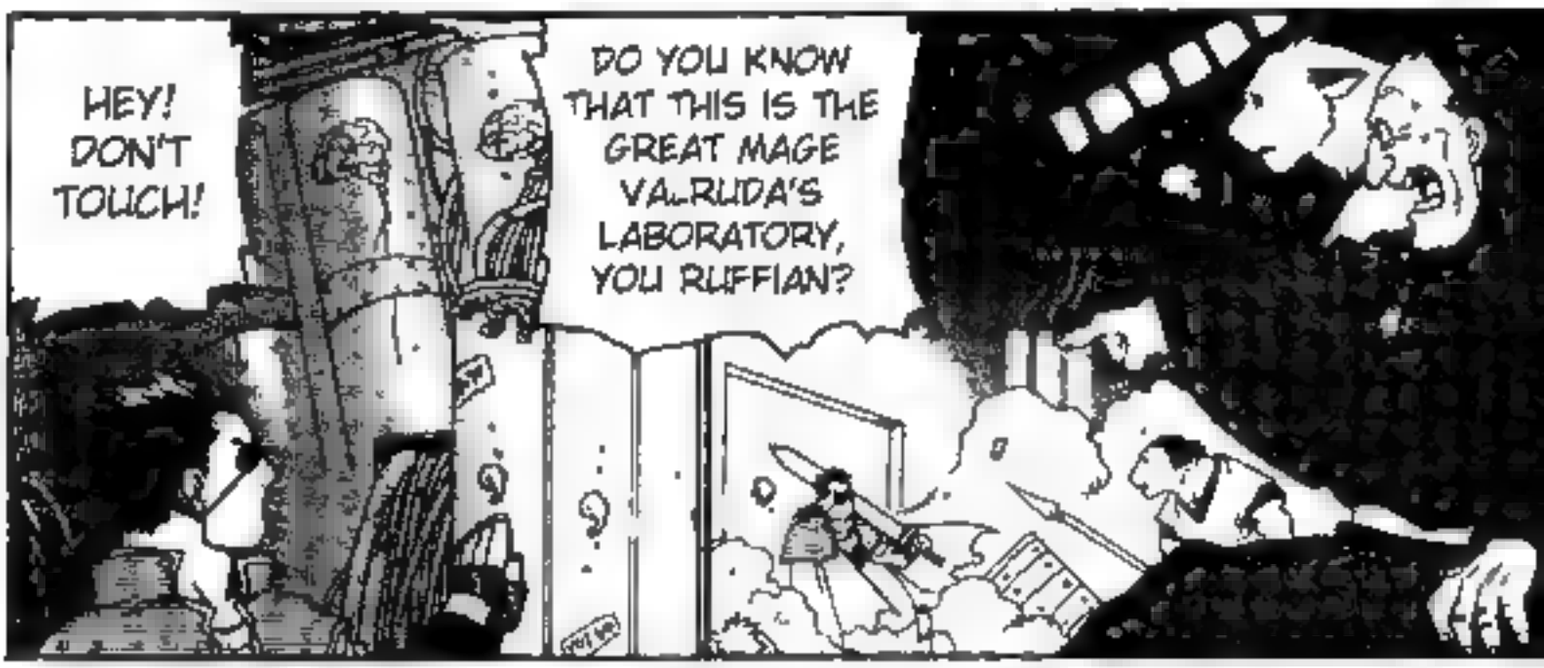
KILKA!!
YOU OK? MASTER
WE'VE WON?
STUPID DOG! DON'T ACT SO RECKLESELY!

...AH, I'M FINE, DON'T WORRY.
MASTER, YOU'RE NOT WOUNDED ARE YOU? YOU'RE OK?
Anahaha..
OH... DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...MY SIGHT IS BLURRING ...
IN COMPARISON, YOUR TREATMENT... IS...
YOU STILL IN THE MOOD TO WORRY ABOUT OTHERS?
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, YOU STUPID DOG...
HEY ...
IDIOT! AREN'T DOGS SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW THEIR MASTER'S ORDERS ABSOLUTELY!? HOW CAN YOU JUST GO AND DIE WITHOUT EVEN TELLING ME!?
IT'S ENOUGH ... IT'S ENOUGH ALREADY ...
SHUT UP!!
MAS-TER ...
MAS-TER ...

I'M TOO FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY MASTER.
OBVIOUSLY FLAWED...I ALWAYS MAKE YOU ANGRY. THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME, BUT
SHIT! WHY WON'T THE BLEEDING STOP!!
MASTER, I
GET A GRIP, YOU IDIOT!
...KILKA, THIS IS YOUR LAST COMMAND ...
THANK YOU.

splat
REST IN PEACE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
MASTER.
... YES.


WHO ARE YOU ...?
YOU
YOU
YOU


HEY! DON'T TOUCH!
DO YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS THE GREAT MAGE VALRUDA'S LABORATORY, YOU RUFFIAN?

SHE FOLLOWED ME WHEREVER I WENT.
A SMALL, FLAWED FEMALE DOG THAT I PICKED UP THREE YEARS AGO...
I ONCE KEPT A MILITARY DOG,
DOG ...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?
WHY!?
REALLY?
AN UNWAVERING LOYALTY
EVEN TILL DEATH, HER LOYALTY DIDN'T WAVER, AND SHE ENDED UP DYING LIKE A TOTAL MESS. .
SHE FOLLOWED HER ORDERS ABSOLUTELY, EVEN WHEN THEY WERE GIVEN BY A USELESS PERSON LIKE ME

YOU... HOW COULD YOU COMPARE MY ART AS "SOMETHING LIKE THAT"!?
YOU. YOU!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO CREATE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!!?
THE CREATOR WHO DOMINATES AND DESPISES THEIR EXISTANCE!
A PATHETIC LIFEFORM THAT HAS NO HOPE OF SALVATION FROM THE SELFISHNESS OF HUMANS ..
YOU SAY ART?
A LIVING CORPSE THAT CAN'T EVEN HAVE IT'S OWN WILL!
YOU SAY THIS IS ART!?
BE-CAUSE I DO!
SAY IT AS IF YOU KNOW EVERY-THING ..
YOU ...

!!
A GOLDEN ... RIGHT EYE...
YOU'RE ...!!
NO ..
DON'T THROW ME AWAY!!
DON'T THROW ME AWAY!!
I'M THE MILITARY DOG THAT HAS GROWN UP FROM THE "FAILURE" THAT YOU THREW AWAY INTO THE SEWERS TOGETHER WITH THE RUBBISH TWENTY YEARS AGO.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I WAS OBVIOUSLY ALIVE..!!!
OBVIOUSLY ALIVE

...HA HAHAHA HAHA!!
HA HAHA
...HA...
AREN'T YOU STILL THE SAME ...?
REALLY NOW!! THAT IS JUST TOO FUNNY!
AH, RIGHT!! YOU'RE JUST AS RUTHLESS AS HUMANS!!
SO THAT YOU CAN SATISFY THAT INSIGNIFICANT PRIDE OF YOURS!?
SO YOU WILL FEEL THAT YOU ARE SUPERIOR, JUSTIFYING THE VALUE OF YOUR EXISTANCE!!?
A PIECE OF "RUBBISH" KEPT ANOTHER PIECE OF "RUBBISH"!?
AM I RIGHT!?
YOU ONLY KEPT HER AROUND TO SUSTAIN YOUR SELF-WORTH!!
SO...
MAYBE IT REALLY IS THAT WAY...
AH, YES.

UGLY BUSI-NESS.
I NEED TO PUT AN END TO THIS...
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING!? GO AND GET RID OF THAT STRAY DOG!!
MY ART!!!
IT'S BURNING ... MY YEARS OF RE-SEARCH ...
AHH!

ARRGG GHHHHH HH!!!
ROAR!
ROAR!!
SO.
I'M COM -ING,
MY BRO- THERS !!

オオオオ
オオオオ
ズ!

THIS ONE'S CLEAR
NEXT!
OUTPOST CHECK!! STOP THE HORSE CART.
DON'T PUSH!
HEY, MR. SOLDIER, WHAT'S UP WITH THE CHECK? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
OK, COME DOWN FROM THE HORSE CART!
OK, NEXT!
YEAH, AN INTRUDER WENT AND KILLED MR. VALRUDA AND ALL THE MILITARY DOGS AT THE LABORATORY LAST NIGHT.
WHAT!
A CHECK !!
SOMETHING HAPPENED?
!?
... YOU ...
IF YOU SEE HIM, REMEMBER TO TELL US...
A LARGE SINGLE-EYED MAN WEILDING A HUGE SWORD ...
HA... THAT'S REALLY A DISASTER...

A GOLDEN EYE...?
OK, LET'S GO. DON'T GET IN THE WAY!
THANKS
MISSING AN ARM, TOO?
AH, A DOG?
HURRY UP, HURRY UP!!
FULTAC!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT!
I'M GOING ON AHEAD IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP!

REALLY NOW, MY PARTNER IS SO IMPATIENT. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HA HA
WELL,
LET'S GO.
I HEARD THAT THERE IS AN OUTPOST CHECK!
THE STORE OWNER ...
LUCKILY, IT'S A FINE DAY TODAY.
I HEARD THAT THERE ARE ROBBERS AROUND HERE...
AH, I FOUND SOME FOOD.
MUM, OVER THERE! DOG, DOG!

THE END